



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE MEETING** **JANUARY 24, 2007**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
Carl E. Moore

##### **Excused Absence**

John A. Hammargren

##### **Others Present**

Capt. Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department  
Lt. Deborah Jones, Sheriff's Department  
Howard Wong, Probation Department  
Angela Parks-Pyles, Children and Family Services Department  
Carla Carr, Auditor-Controller's Office  
Tim Braden, Internal Services Department  
Dr. Kathleen Daly, Department of Mental Health  
Jim Allen, Department of Mental Health  
Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services Division  
Jim Corbett, Assistant Chief, Commission Services Division  
Audra Galang, Staff, Commission Services Division

Chair Montano welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested Department representatives to introduce themselves.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

All participants contributed valuable input, shared their respective experiences and brought the benefit of their expertise to a Roundtable discussion regarding the regulations and monitoring of group/foster homes and their residents then gave the following reports.

### **Probation Department - Mr. Howard Wong**

Group Home Closures: the Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services in Sylmar will be closing their 99 beds in Level 12 on June 2007 for financial reasons; Level 14 will stay open.

Physical or sexual abuse: Penny Lane #7: sexual assault minor-to-minor case; Right of Passage in Nevada: a staff prerogative sexual instrument to minor; Optimus Main in Eagle rock: a minor-to-minor sexual assault with pressure of threat; and Glass Wilton House: a sexual relationship minor-to-minor. Each of these incidents is under investigation.

Runaway-minors: they have an average of 300 runaway-minors who are AWOL, waiting for a court decision with a warrant for 60 days or; they are on active warrants under 60 days. Of the 300 runaway minors, 200 are without warrants. There are five complaints against staff.

Success of minors: one (1) minor (Reyes) was transferred from the Probation Department and currently living in a transitional housing independent living program at Boys' Republic as a cook. The present cook is retiring in about two months.

Major Disturbances: No report

Media Items of Interest: There are six additional Probation Officers and Deputies in Van Nuys to assist with the gang problems; the State of California Youth Authority is returning clients to the Department of Probation.

**Sheriff's Department** – Lt. Deborah Jones shared the Report on Staff Assaults' for 2005-06 in the Custody Division of various facilities. She demonstrated a sample suicide kit; it has two towels for pressure point in case of bleeding, a mask, glove and the tools to cut leather. Captain Asmus introduced himself as the representative for the Court Division and reserved his comments for later.

### **Children and Family Services – Ms. Angela Parks-Pyles**

Babies with Aids: will not be funded effective February 2007. The facility is intended to work exclusively with fragile children.

Jay Cee Dee Group Home: is now on a "Do Not Refer" list and DCFS will not place children with them. The fiscal issue with the Federal Government has been rectified. Vice Chair Stathatos advised the group that a corrective action plan was given. Ms. Parks-Pyles requested a copy of the corrective action plan to determine if the

violations were corrected; the report will be provided to the Home Care Section to show what has been done.

Ms. Parks-Pyles advised the Commission that other outstanding items would be reported on by Ms. Howard at the next business meeting.

Chair Montano requested an updated current group home list. She gave a brief report on their findings of Zenith Group Home.

Commissioner Moore mentioned that in an attempt to provide positive recognition, the Commission would like to give Certificates of Appreciation to the group homes and group home workers who do a good job in caring for clients. DCFS said that the department hosts a regional program twice per year that recognizes good facilities.

**Auditor-Controller's Office – Ms. Carla Carr**

Reported on 2006 violations that included items that were not audited and those audits that revealed significant problems within a group home. She reported that four group homes have not complied with corrective action plans – Drice Home, Zenith Group Home, Jeeb Home and Carlin Home (Hudson Lyndsey Group Home/Psymed, Inc.). Ms. Carr asked staff to provide her a copy of Zenith Group Home inspection report.

**Department of Mental Health – Dr. Kathleen Daly; Mr. Tim Allen, Director**

Representatives introduced themselves, shared two 2007 updates entitled, *Community Reintegration Demonstration Project Adult Systems of Care – Jail Mental Health Services; and Community Reintegration Demonstration Project* and discussed a tentative housing site location for homeless people. Dr. Daly said that a bid on-site for housing in the skid row area was put out. Sites were predetermined by RFP in the skid row downtown area and a budget of \$22 million has been set aside. They also discussed collaboration efforts with the Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Social Services; the City of Los Angeles, and Community Development Department. DMH is also in collaboration with National Institute of Mental Health, a *California Endowment*.

**Internal Services Department – Tim Braden, General Manager, Facilities Operations**

He reported that he is responsible for 800 staff members and receives approximately 6,000 trouble calls. When calls are received he attempts to determine if the problem can be handled "in house" such as painting and carpet. Those that can't, may be subbed out and they have standing contracts to assist when the demand is too much. ISD has a standing contract with World Contract which is approved by the Board of Supervisors and in the business of refurbishment projects. Calls are placed into (3) categories: Emergencies, Discomfort calls, and Service requests. Service requests are taken on a first come first serve basis. Routine calls can be done in three days. Service requests on health and safety issues is number one in the first come, first serve category.

The Commission identified repeated problems at these facilities and group discussed air vent cleaning in all facilities; and solutions to problems at the Compton, Long Beach, Downey and Torrance Courthouses that included the accessibility of the sally port gate, cleanliness, elevator maintenance, installation of a grinder/shredder at the Compton

Courthouse, appropriate sized turn out gear, and a working refrigerator in the Sheriff Station lock-up.

Captain Warren Asmus added that the CAO has put aside a budget for those items and that a work order was submitted; the next step was for ISD to complete the job. Captain Asmus asked that the Commission forward their observations and concerns to his attention first, so that he may be afforded the opportunity to address these issues promptly and respond to the concerns of the Commission. He agreed to provide a current listing of Sheriff Facility Contacts.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the Department representatives for their attendance and informative presentations for the health and safety of the community.

#### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 17, 2007 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of January 17, 2007 were approved as presented.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Following a brief discussion, the obituary and articles on the passing of former Commissioner James Cragin were given to the staff for filing. The Commission agreed to make a donation in Commissioner Cragin's name to the Cancer Society or to his church. Chair Montano agreed to contact Mrs. Cragin and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,138.50.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Sandra Barbee, Chief of Commission Services Division, reported the following:

1. A draft Board letter on the ordinance to update Title 2, Chapter 2.82 of County Code to add inspection of DCFS and Probation Group Homes to the Sybil Brand Commission and deleting inspection of toy loan facilities from the Commission's responsibilities, was sent to the Office of County Counsel for review.
2. Presented final letter to Captain Warren Asmus on Compton Courthouse issues for signature.
3. Provided a draft 2006 Annual Mileage Report for the *2006 Sybil Brand Commission Annual Report*.
4. Discussed the Commission's donation for the passing of former Commissioner James Cragin, in lieu of flowers.
5. Received a positive response from Nestles Inc. that they will donate candies and snack bars, which will be delivered in four to six weeks from January 16, 2007.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Commissioner Hall distributed a flyer and extended an invitation from the West Angeles Church of God in Christ Law Enforcement Committee's program on Sunday, February 18, 2007, 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., entitled, "*The Bible and The Badge!*" to be held at the Cathedral, 3600 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. This event is in appreciation of our Law Enforcement, Fire Department and Military Personnel. Commissioner Hall encouraged everyone to participate.

**FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS**

The Commissioners inspection reports were deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandra Barbee*  
Chief, Commission Services Division